

*Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts*

Susan M. Kay
Mayor

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July 10, 2014

The Honorable Martha Coakley
Attn: Antitrust Division
Office of Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 18th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Via facsimile to (617) 722-0184

RE: Merger of South Shore Hospital and Partners Health Care

Madam Attorney General:

I write to applaud the settlement proposal that you have reached with Partners Health Care as associated with the terms of its proposed merger with the South Shore Hospital.

Your proposal includes what can reasonably be characterized as significant and even historic benefits for the acute care market place. The agreement provisions which aggressively cap prices and restrict future growth for a decade are ground breaking; I note that no other provider systems in the Commonwealth have agreed to such constraints.

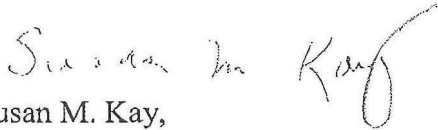
Since this merger proposal was announced last year, I have followed it closely and spent considerable time evaluating its implications to the Town of Weymouth and the 55,000 people I represent. This process has been lengthy and every aspect of it has been transparent, thorough and robust. All interested and affected parties have been afforded extensive opportunities to comment which has been a great credit to this process and its very deliberate nature.

The South Shore Hospital is a vital community asset not only as our community's largest employer but as a mainstay for the delivery of quality acute care to Weymouth and the entire South Shore. As a community hospital, it faces a future where the pressures to control costs by investing in technology and systems to streamline and coordinate care is not possible as a stand-alone entity. Nothing that has emerged throughout this process changes what is an incontrovertible trend in the industry, which is that community hospitals across the Commonwealth are merging with larger systems because they need to in order to survive. South Shore Hospital's long term survival requires merger with a system and the benefits of the Partners system to Weymouth and the South Shore are significant and necessary.

I am pleased that your settlement recognizes, thoughtfully, all of these realities. You have balanced well the public interest by bringing new tools to the table to control costs while allowing the long term survival of a vital community partner with the capacity to deliver the best health care in the world. That is no small achievement; it is time for this matter to be concluded.

Sincerely,

THE TOWN OF WEYMOUTH

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan M. Kay".

Susan M. Kay,
Mayor